Newspaper report on planning to increase milk output

4025. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to press report captioned 'Proper planning can raise milk output' as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 16th January, 1995;

(b) if so, whether efforts of Government to increase the production of milk in the country are not upto the mark;

(c) if so, whether in view of coming summer season, Government propose to review its planning to strengthen the milk output in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Milk production in the country has been increasing at a rate of 5 per cent per annum in the last 3 years and this is considered good.

(c) and (d) There are powers vested in the Government and the Controller under provisions of the Milk and Milk Product Order, 1992 to make interventions so as to ensure availability of liquid milk during times of temporary shortage as they happen in the summer months. The need for making such interventions is reviewed from time to time.

Applications for seeds exports

4026. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications cleared for seed exports in 1994-95;

(b) the number of applications cleared for seed imports in 1994-95;

(c) the number of applications pending on the date for export of import; and

(d) whether a mandatory time limit would be introduced for all applications on such subjects so as to save time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) While the number of applications cleared for seed exports in 1994-95 is 18, the number of cases cleared for seed imports is 38.

(c) 11 applications for export and 8 applications for import, are pending as on date.

(d) Applications are decided as soon as comments from all relevant agencies are received. The concerned agencies are expected to respond within a reasonable time.

Export import Committee for seeds

4027. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has a high powered Export Import Committee for seeds;

(b) whether all applications regarding movement of seeds have to be approved by this Committee; and

(c) the number of times the Committee met in 1993-94 and 1994-95 alongwith the dates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In so far as export of seeds is concerned, the Committee makes recommendation in cases of only such categories as appear in the Restricted List in the Export Import Policy. As for the import of seeds only cases involving bulk import with the exception of vege-

tables and flowers, and cases involving a policy decision are dealt with by the Committee.

(c) The details showing the number of meetings alongwith dates on which they were held are enclosed in statement.

Statement

Details showing the number of meetings held in 1993-94 *and* 1994-95

1993-94		1994-95	
Number of meetings	Date of meeting	Number of meetings	Date of meetings
4	5-5-93	6	25-4-94
	12-7-93		27-6-94
	11-10-93		6-9-94
	23-12-93		14-12-94
			2-3-95
			21-3-95

Export of seeds

4028. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will review the existing cumbersome procedures in practice for peoole wishing to export seeds from India;

(b) whether it is a fact that from the date of application for export of seeds to clearance by his Ministry, it takes an everage of 90 days;

(c) if so, the reasons for such delays which harm farmers; and

(d) whether Government will examine this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) As per the existing Export-Import policy and procedures, export of seeds; except certain categories appearing in the Restricted List, is allowed without restriction.

(b) to (d) An application for export normally takes an average of 40-60 days for clearance since it requires seeking comments of all concerned agencies on relevant aspects. Efforts are made to decide the cases with in reasonable time.

Resolution to study the proposed anti-tobacco legislation

4029. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tobacco Development Council has unanimously passed a resolution asking for establishment of an Expert Committee to study the proposed anti-tobacco legislation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for Agriculture Ministry not implementing a resolution in farmers interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Indian Tobacco Development Council in its meeting held on 2-6-94 recommended that the proposed legislation on ban on advertisement of tobacco and tobacco products be referred to an Expert Committee for a thorough re-examination of its provisions. The same has been examined. The legislation proposed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has gone through the process of discussions with growers, traders and several